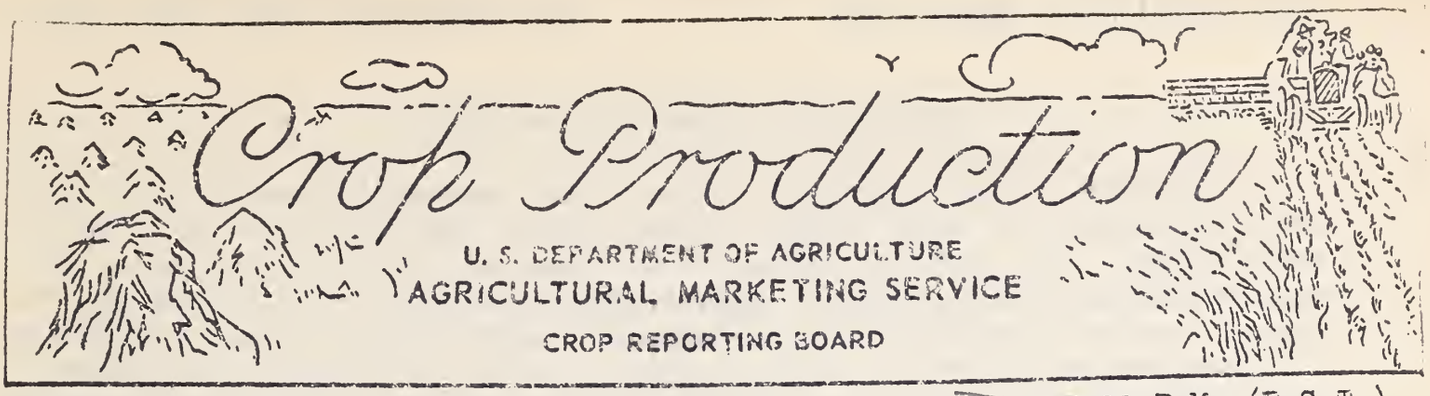

March 10, 1955 3:00 P.M. (E.S.T.)

MARCH 1, 1955

The Crop Reporting Board of the Agricultural Marketing Service makes the following report for the United States from data furnished by crop correspondents, field statisticians, and cooperating State agencies.

CITRUS FRUITS 1/

CROP	PRODUCTION			
	Average 1943-52	1952	1953	Indicated 1954
	Thousand boxes			
Oranges and Tangerines	113,874	125,080	130,930	139,635
Grapefruit	50,054	38,360	48,370	42,620
Lemons	12,493	13,590	16,130	14,200

1/Season begins with the bloom of the year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year.

MILK AND EGG PRODUCTION

MONTH	MILK			EGGS		
	Average 1944-53	1954	1955	Average 1944-53	1954	1955
	Million pounds			Millions		
January	8,305	9,202	9,105	4,804	5,479	5,771
February	8,168	9,001	8,884	5,135	5,501	5,518
Jan.-Feb.Incl.	16,473	18,203	17,989	9,938	10,980	11,289

Agriculture - Washington, D. C.

GENERAL CROP REPORT AS OF MARCH 1

Progress of early spring field work and vegetative growth was generally delayed over much of the country during the past month by cold or wet weather. The 1955 crop season now seems unlikely to be as early as each of the last three years. Substantial additions to soil moisture supplies have been made, however, and the delays should prove unimportant if later growth conditions are favorable. Short periods of high winds threatened cropland in the southwestern Great Plains which lacked adequate cover, while snow storms and cold in northern States caused additional livestock feeding. Heavy snows late in February increased some western mountain snowpacks, but prospective water supplies remained below average for most irrigation districts. Some further snows fell in the first week of March.

The acreage pattern of this year's cropping season will not be fully determined until total losses of fall seeded grains and forage crops are known and crop shifts due to acreage control programs have been made. The Prospective Acreage report to be issued on March 18 will present advance indications of the acreage totals for major crops.

Winter wheat in a large area in the western part of the southern Great Plains received very little moisture during the past month. Crop loss from wind erosion in this area during February is believed to be less than occurred last year, but could become extensive if March high winds should arrive before soaking rains. Other Great Plains areas maintained good to excellent wheat prospects as did North Central and Northeastern States. Much of the acreage in Northern States remained dormant or had protective snow cover, but fields in some sections greened during warm days. Late seedings now show least promise. Pacific Northwest wheat generally needs moisture, but is not considered critically damaged. Growth of fall seeded grains in Southern States has been retarded by cool or wet weather, but quick growth is expected to follow warmer weather.

Despite some cold snaps, crop activity moved ahead in earlier sections of the country. Harvest of citrus continued at a normal pace in most areas, and the early vegetable harvest was active. Pears, plums and peaches are blooming or beginning to bloom in Southern States. California deciduous fruit bloom was delayed by cool weather, but most farm operations there are active and about up to the usual schedule. As soils dried in the eastern half of Texas, land preparation for planting cotton, sorghum and corn moved ahead and corn planting was

getting started. Early cotton plantings in the lower Valley of Texas are up to good stands. Seeding of oats made good progress in Oklahoma and farmers in southern Missouri and eastern Kansas were ready to start.

Farmers in most northern States spent more than usual time on livestock care as storms and cold increased feeding requirements. Crop activity in northern areas were mainly limited to readying equipment and supplies for the spring planting rush. In Southern New England and in Pennsylvania, maple trees were tapped and light early sap runs collected. Snow cover or setback to feed growth from cold was general in most western range areas. Supplies of feed and hay are generally ample.

Harvest of the record crop of Florida early and midseason oranges was nearly completed by March 1 and a beginning was made on the smaller Valencia crop. Over half of the Florida grapefruit crop has now been used. California navel orange harvest is about finished in the San Joaquin Valley and is about one-third complete in southern California. Freeze damage during the month was severe only for Arizona grapefruit and Valencia oranges although some minor loss to fruit on tree damage also occurred in California and Texas.

Winter vegetable production is now estimated at 5 percent below last year although equal to average. Yield prospects improved during February for snap beans, celery and tomatoes, but declined for winter beets, sweet corn, eggplant and spinach. Prospective acreages of fresh market vegetables for spring harvest are expected to be larger than in 1954 for asparagus, beets, cabbage and spinach, but smaller for onions, tomatoes and watermelons.

February egg production was about equal to last year with average laying rates dropping below a year ago because of cold weather. Due to continuing improvements in breeding and flock management, declines in laying rate below the comparable month of the previous year have been relatively infrequent. A 2 percent increase over last year in the number of layers in flocks made up for the reduced laying rate. The amount of culling done during February was below average.

Milk production in February fell below last year's level for the third consecutive month. The decrease was due to a smaller number of milk cows; production per cow was a new high for the month. Production per cow in crop reporters' herds increased less than usual within the month, reflecting effects of adverse weather. Per capita milk production is now below last year and slightly below the 10-year average.

CITRUS: The estimate of early and midseason oranges for the 1954-55 season, at 70.4 million boxes, is 7 percent above the 1953-54 crop and slightly larger than estimated last month. Valencia oranges are forecast at 64 million boxes--7 percent above last season and about the same as estimated a month ago. About 73 million boxes of all kinds of oranges remained unharvested on March 1 this year which was about 9 million boxes more than a year earlier. Florida tangerines are estimated at 5.2 million boxes compared with 5 million last season and the average of 4.4 million. Less than one-half million boxes of tangerines remained unpicked.

Grapefruit production is estimated at 42.6 million boxes--12 percent less than last season and 15 percent less than average. About 19.5 million boxes of grapefruit remained for use on March 1--nearly 4 million less than were available a year earlier. Last season 1.3 million boxes of Florida grapefruit were not utilized.

California lemons are forecast at 14.2 million boxes, compared with 16.1 million last season and the 10-year average of 12.5 million.

The crop of Florida early and midseason oranges is turning out larger than indicated earlier. Production is now estimated at a record 52.5 million boxes compared with the forecast of 51 million a month earlier. Nearly 51 million boxes had been used by March 1, of which about two-thirds were processed. Only about a million boxes of Valencias had been used by March 1 compared with about 4 million boxes used to March 1 last season. However, fewer Valencias remained for harvest because of a smaller crop. Utilization of Florida grapefruit to March 1 totaled about 20 million boxes, leaving 15 million to be used. Last season about 23 million boxes had been used to March 1 and 19 million were left, of which 1.3 million were not utilized. Florida citrus trees are in a heavy full bloom. Conditions are generally favorable although additional rainfall would be beneficial.

Harvest of Texas grapefruit and oranges was more than two-thirds completed by March 1. Heavy frosts on February 12 caused very little damage to fruit but many young trees were partially to totally defoliated and some wood was damaged. The 1955 bloom was delayed. Water for irrigation continues plentiful.

Arizona citrus crops sustained severe freeze damage February 18-22. A ban was placed on picking all fruit for market until the extent of the damage could be determined. Navel oranges were all harvested prior to the freeze but grapefruit was only about one-third harvested and very few Valencia oranges had been picked. It is expected that a large proportion of the damaged Valencias will be salvaged for processing. Because of the freeze the forecast of grapefruit production dropped from 3 million to 2 million boxes and Valencia oranges dropped from 700,000 to 600,000 boxes.

California citrus areas experienced many cold days and nights during February. There was some loss of fruit from frost damage and some further losses of fruit bloom from the trees by wind storms. Development of fruit was slowed generally by the cold weather. Prospects for lemons and Navel oranges declined moderately but the forecasts for other California citrus crops remain unchanged from February 1. Harvest of Navels in central California is nearly completed and in southern California is about one-thrid finished, totaling more than one-half of the Navels for the State. Harvest of Valencias will not start until sometime in April except for fruit that is being salvaged from groves which are to be removed soon for residential subdivision. Desert Valley grapefruit is about one-fourth harvested but grapefruit from other areas will not be picked until summer.

MILK PRODUCTION: Production of milk on United States farms in February totaled 8,884 million pounds, 1 percent less than last year, but 9 percent above average. Milk production was below the corresponding month a year earlier for the third consecutive month. This resulted from the smaller number of milk cows on farms as milk production per cow was record high for February. The milk produced on farms in February was sufficient to provide 1.93 pounds of milk daily for each person in the United States, about 3 percent less than a year ago and slightly less than average in the 1944-53 period.

Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents increased less than usual from February 1 to March 1 this year, and on the latter date was only slightly above a year earlier. Weather during February was quite variable, with storms and extremely cold weather reducing milk production in some areas. Freezes extending to the Gulf reduced winter grazing in the lower South, but rains in some sections helped pasture prospects. Milk production per cow on March 1 in all regions continued well above the 10-year average, but in the East North Central and South Central regions was a little below last year. The percentage of milk cows in crop correspondents herds reported in production on March 1 average 70.5 percent, a new high record for the date. In all regions except the South Central, the percentage of cows milked continued moderately above a year ago.

In the 33 States for which milk production estimates are available, new high records for February were established in 12 States. Milk production was rather generally below February 1954 in States in the main Corn Belt from Indiana westward, the Great Plains and the interior South. Production was down 4 percent or more in Illinois, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming. On the other hand, production was above a year earlier from Ohio northeastward, in the southern Atlantic Coast States and in the far West. Wisconsin, as usual, led all States with an output of 1,271 million pounds of milk during February, followed by Minnesota with 731 million, California with 515 million, and Pennsylvania with 475 million pounds.

Monthly Milk Production on Farms, Selected States 1/

State	Feb. average 1944-53	Feb. 1954	Jan. 1955	Feb. 1955	State	Feb. average 1944-53	Feb. 1954	Jan. 1955	Feb. 1955
	Million pounds					Million pounds			
N.J.	82	91	103	95	Ga.	82	93	97	96
Pa.	394	459	503	475	Ky.	136	159	162	152
Ohio	340	395	445	421	Tenn.	139	160	165	153
Ind.	251	264	258	255	Ala.	90	96	97	95
Ill.	384	394	390	378	Miss.	91	106	109	110
Mich.	380	405	412	408	Ark.	82	91	92	89
Wis.	1,087	1,267	1,287	1,271	Okla.	150	134	136	136
Minn.	684	760	745	731	Texas	247	245	235	230
Iowa	436	414	436	409	Mont.	39	35	35	34
Mo.	246	278	276	272	Idaho	85	100	107	105
N.Dak.	118	118	116	122	Wyo.	17	15	15	14
S.Dak.	99	96	87	91	Utah	50	53	55	54
Nebr.	164	161	153	151	Wash.	120	123	134	123
Kans.	191	182	186	174	Oreg.	76	77	79	80
Va.	117	136	143	135	Calif.	423	501	554	515
W.Va.	52	50	55	53	Other States	1,171	1,378	1,260	1,290
N.C.	105	120	132	121	U. S.	8,168	9,001	9,105	8,884
S.C.	40	45	46	46					

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

POULTRY AND EGG PRODUCTION: Farm flocks laid 5,518 million eggs in February, about the same as in February last year and 7 percent above the 1944-53 average. Increases of 4 percent in the North Atlantic and 3 percent in the West were offset by decreases of 2 percent in the West North Central and 1 percent in the South Central States. Production in the East North Central and South Atlantic States was about the same as last year. Aggregate egg production for January and February was 3 percent above last year and 14 percent above average.

The rate of egg production in February was 14.6 eggs per layer, compared with 14.8 eggs a year earlier and the average of 13.3 eggs. Cold weather over much of the country was mainly responsible for the lower rate of lay. Decreases from last year were 5 percent in the South Central, 2 percent in the East North Central, 1 percent in the West North Central and South Atlantic States. The rate was 1 percent higher than last year in the North Atlantic States, with no change in the West. Egg production per layer in February was 15.5 eggs in the West, 15.3 in the North Atlantic, 15.2 in the West North Central, 14.8 in the East North Central, 13.7 in the South Atlantic and 12.3 eggs in the South Central States.

The Nation's laying flock averaged 379,131,000 layers in February--2 percent more than in February last year, but 2 percent below average. Numbers of layers were above last year in all regions of the country except the West North Central where they were down 1 percent. Increases from last year were 5 percent in the South Central, 3 percent in the North Atlantic and the West, 2 percent in the East North Central and 1 percent in the South Atlantic States.

Numbers of layers on March 1 were 2 percent larger than a year ago. The disappearance of layers from February 1 to March 1 was 8.2 million birds, compared with 11.2 million last year and the average disappearance of 8.6 million. Strengthening egg prices reduced culling.

HENS AND PULLETS OF LAYING AGE AND EGGS LAID PER 100 LAYERS ON FARMS, MARCH 1

Year	North Atlantic	E. North Central	W. North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
HENS AND PULLETS OF LAYING AGE ON FARMS, MARCH 1							
			Thousands				
1944-53 (Av.)	55,708	74,804	109,791	35,858	69,828	36,088	382,077
1954 1/	65,083	73,212	98,300	35,224	57,430	37,565	366,814
1955	67,883	75,187	97,185	35,894	60,285	38,609	375,043
EGGS LAID PER 100 LAYERS ON FARMS, MARCH 1							
			Number				
1944-53 (Av.)	54.8	51.8	51.7	48.6	47.5	53.4	51.2
1954 1/	57.0	57.8	61.0	55.7	55.5	58.2	58.0
1955	55.7	54.5	56.0	54.0	50.9	57.4	54.7

1/Revised.

Prices received by farmers for eggs in mid-February averaged 39.5 cents a dozen, compared with 32.2 cents in mid-January and 45.7 cents on February 15 a year earlier. Shell egg markets were steady to firm during February. Prices advanced sharply during the month in the East and Midwest where offerings declined contra-seasonally.

Farmers received an average of 23.7 cents per pound live weight for chickens (farm chickens and commercial broilers) in mid-February, compared with 22.4 cents a year earlier. Farm chickens averaged 18.8 cents and commercial broilers 25.2 cents, compared with 21.7 cents and 22.6, respectively, in mid-February last year. Live and processed poultry markets were steady to firm during the month with offerings lighter on all classes of poultry. Commercially grown broilers and fryers advanced from 1 to 5½ cents a pound in major producing areas. Heavy type hens advanced 5 to 6 cents a pound in some Eastern and Southern points while advances of 2 to 3 cents a pound were general in the middle and far west.

Farm turkey prices on February 15 averaged 28.1 cents a pound live weight, compared with 33.2 cents a year earlier. Markets were steady to firm during the month. Trading was seasonally light. Processed fryer-roaster turkeys advanced 1 to 2 cents a pound during the month at New York City, while prices for heavy type turkeys were mostly unchanged.

The average cost of the farm poultry ration in mid-February was $3.80 per 100 pounds, compared with $3.86 in February last year. The February egg-feed, farm chicken-feed, and turkey-feed ratios were less favorable than a year ago.

CROP REPORTING BOARD

CITRUS FRUITS

Crop and State	Average 1943-52	Production 1/ 1952	1953	Indicated 1954
	Thousand boxes			
ORANGES:				
Calif., all	46,385	46,030	32,460	40,500
Navels and Misc. 2/	17,080	16,630	14,460	15,700
Valencias	29,305	29,400	18,000	24,800
Fla., all	58,580	72,200	91,300	90,500
Temples	3/1,010	1,700	2,200	2,400
Other Early & Midseason	31,381	40,600	48,000	50,100
Valencias	26,290	29,900	41,100	38,000
Texas, all	3,211	1,000	900	2,000
Early & Midseason 2/	2,035	700	675	1,400
Valencias	1,176	300	225	600
Ariz., all	1,016	900	1,170	1,250
Navels & Misc. 2/	516	400	550	650
Valencias	500	500	620	600
La., all 2/	271	50	100	185
5 States 4/	109,464	120,180	125,930	134,435
Total Early & Midseason 5/	52,193	60,080	65,985	70,435
Total Valencias	57,271	60,100	59,945	64,000
TANGERINES:				
Fla.	4,410	4,900	5,000	5,200
All oranges & tangerines:				
5 States 4/	113,874	125,080	130,930	139,635
GRAPEFRUIT:				
Fla., all	30,340	32,500	42,000	35,000
Seedless	14,170	17,100	21,900	20,000
Other	16,170	15,400	20,100	15,000
Texas, all	13,631	400	1,200	3,200
Ariz., all	3,260	3,000	2,670	2,000
Calif., all	2,803	2,460	2,500	2,420
Desert Valleys	1,061	830	1,050	920
Other	1,742	1,630	1,450	1,500
4 States 4/	50,034	38,360	48,370	42,620
LEMONS:				
Calif. 4/	12,493	12,590	16,130	14,200
LIMES:				
Fla. 4/	230	320	370	380

1/Season begins with the bloom of the year shown and ends with the completion of harvest the following year. In California picking usually extends from about Oct. 1 to Dec. 31 of the following year. In other States the season begins about Oct. 1 and ends in early summer, except for Florida limes, harvest of which usually starts about April 1. For some States in certain years, production includes some quantities donated to charity, unharvested, and/or not utilized on account of economic conditions.

2/Includes small quantities of tangerines. 3/Short-time average. 4/Net content of box varies. In Calif. and Arizona the approximate average for oranges is 77 lb. and grapefruit 65 lb. in the Desert Valleys; 68 lb. for California grapefruit in other areas; in Florida and other States, oranges, including tangerines, 90 lb. and grapefruit 80 lb.; California lemons, 79lb.; Florida limes, 80 lb. 5/In California and Arizona, Navels and Miscellaneous.

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY REPORTERS 1/

State and Division	Average 1944-53	March 1 1953	March 1 1954	March 1 1955
		Pounds		
Maine	14.0	16.0	16.6	17.6
N.H.	16.5	18.4	19.4	21.1
Vt.	15.7	17.7	19.7	19.6
Mass.	17.6	18.4	20.9	21.5
Conn.	18.3	19.0	22.9	22.4
N.Y	19.8	22.7	22.7	22.1
N.J.	21.3	23.2	22.9	24.3
Pa.	18.7	21.0	21.1	21.5
N.Atl.	18.81	21.19	21.61	21.72
Ohio	16.1	18.3	19.1	20.6
Ind.	15.2	17.5	18.2	18.2
Ill.	16.8	18.6	19.7	19.4
Mich.	19.0	20.9	21.2	22.1
Wis.	19.3	20.7	22.1	21.4
E.N.Cent.	17.89	19.81	20.83	20.80
Minn.	20.7	22.9	22.6	22.8
Iowa	17.0	17.8	18.3	19.0
Mo.	10.8	11.2	12.9	12.4
N.Dak.	14.7	16.5	15.5	16.9
S.Dak.	13.0	14.1	14.9	15.2
Nebr.	15.5	17.5	18.7	17.2
Kans.	15.0	15.9	18.3	17.8
W.N.Cent.	16.02	17.57	18.29	18.31
Md.	16.7	18.7	19.0	20.0
Va.	12.7	15.5	15.3	16.0
W.Va.	10.3	11.0	11.1	11.4
N.C.	12.0	13.1	14.0	13.7
S.C.	10.8	11.7	12.0	12.7
Ga.	9.1	9.4	10.2	10.4
S.Atl.	11.95	13.49	13.92	14.42
Ky.	10.7	11.5	12.2	11.6
Tenn.	10.1	11.0	11.2	11.0
Ala.	8.5	8.8	8.6	8.3
Miss.	6.9	7.5	8.2	7.8
Ark.	7.5	8.3	8.6	8.9
Okla.	10.5	11.3	11.5	12.2
Texas	8.3	8.9	10.0	8.9
S.Cent.	9.21	10.03	10.45	10.28
Mont.	14.7	16.2	16.2	16.2
Idaho	18.0	19.2	20.0	20.4
Wyo.	16.5	16.8	17.2	16.2
Colo.	16.1	16.9	18.3	19.6
Utah	18.6	20.0	20.2	21.0
Wash.	18.1	20.6	19.6	19.2
Oreg.	14.5	15.7	15.3	18.0
Calif.	19.5	20.5	22.3	21.6
West.	17.49	18.76	19.12	19.68
U.S.	15.32	16.89	17.57	17.62

1/Averages represent daily milk production divided by the total number of milk cows (in milk or dry). Figures for New England States and New Jersey are based on combined returns from crop and special dairy reporters; others represent crop reporters only. Averages for some less important dairy States are not shown separately.

FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION

State and Division	Number of layers on hand during February		Eggs per 100 Layers		Total eggs produced During February		2 Mos. Jan. & Feb.	
	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955
	Thousands		Number		Millions			
Maine	3,615	3,840	1,602	1,624	58	62	124	132
N.H.	2,440	2,410	1,532	1,540	37	37	80	80
Vt.	916	794	1,674	1,683	15	13	32	29
Mass.	4,751	4,386	1,663	1,641	79	72	171	156
R.I.	518	496	1,602	1,674	8	8	18	18
Conn.	3,736	3,730	1,551	1,585	58	59	124	128
N.Y.	12,620	13,242	1,478	1,526	187	202	401	428
N.J.	15,628	16,474	1,453	1,448	227	239	465	491
Pa.	22,325	23,352	1,529	1,537	341	359	720	748
N.Atl.	66,549	68,724	1,518	1,529	1,010	1,051	2,135	2,210
Ohio	16,495	16,841	1,501	1,495	248	252	500	528
Ind.	16,534	16,993	1,543	1,509	255	256	509	525
Ill.	19,397	19,686	1,484	1,434	288	282	576	577
Mich.	9,823	9,702	1,484	1,445	146	140	305	295
Wis.	12,462	12,758	1,518	1,515	189	193	391	409
E.N.Cent.	74,711	75,980	1,507	1,478	1,126	1,123	2,281	2,334
Minn.	22,553	22,654	1,590	1,590	359	360	745	766
Iowa	26,799	26,954	1,602	1,621	429	437	873	918
Mo.	16,866	15,468	1,456	1,350	246	209	457	426
N.Dak.	3,586	3,544	1,352	1,260	48	45	95	95
S.Dak.	8,012	8,160	1,459	1,462	117	119	232	242
Nebr.	10,881	10,982	1,537	1,529	167	168	327	341
Kans.	10,818	10,630	1,518	1,490	164	158	314	320
W.N.Cent.	99,515	98,392	1,537	1,520	1,530	1,496	3,043	3,108
Del.	906	893	1,400	1,327	13	12	25	24
Md.	3,268	3,330	1,428	1,467	47	49	92	96
Va.	6,972	7,054	1,372	1,392	96	98	185	195
W.Va.	2,869	3,019	1,383	1,333	40	40	75	78
N.C.	9,030	8,756	1,411	1,350	127	118	239	231
S.C.	3,671	3,704	1,294	1,333	48	49	88	93
Ga.	6,132	6,641	1,322	1,322	81	88	152	169
Fla.	2,820	2,742	1,506	1,495	42	41	85	83
S.Atl.	35,668	36,139	1,385	1,370	494	495	941	969
Ky.	8,646	9,222	1,282	1,201	111	111	206	216
Tenn.	7,040	7,105	1,187	1,128	84	80	149	149
Ala.	5,130	5,510	1,210	1,193	62	66	112	122
Miss.	5,136	5,135	1,198	1,109	62	57	111	108
Ark.	5,326	5,533	1,114	1,072	59	59	100	105
La.	2,913	2,997	1,154	1,100	34	33	58	66
Okla.	6,384	6,474	1,439	1,400	92	91	178	180
Texas	17,409	18,904	1,442	1,338	251	253	468	478
S.Cent.	57,984	60,880	1,302	1,232	755	750	1,382	1,418
Mont.	1,479	1,443	1,352	1,392	20	20	40	42
Idaho	1,682	1,566	1,540	1,501	26	24	53	49
Wyo.	582	575	1,596	1,372	9	8	18	17
Colo.	2,234	2,241	1,498	1,277	33	29	64	59
N.Mex.	804	772	1,366	1,210	11	9	21	18
Ariz.	525	550	1,350	1,431	7	8	14	16
Utah	2,438	2,461	1,543	1,456	38	36	74	73
Nev.	146	155	1,372	1,344	2	2	4	4
Wash.	4,070	4,108	1,562	1,700	64	70	137	148
Oreg.	2,977	3,084	1,579	1,610	47	50	97	102
Calif.	21,034	22,061	1,565	1,574	329	347	676	722
West.	37,971	39,016	1,543	1,546	586	603	1,198	1,250
U.S.	372,398	379,131	1,477	1,455	5,501	5,518	10,980	11,289

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Washington, D. C.

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